DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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WARNING!

West German Schools Drill New Militarists

These words are addressed to those readers of GERMAN REPORT who brush off all warnings about the formation of a new West German Wehrmacht as "just propaganda"; those who glance through these pages and then drop the paper into the waste-paper basket.

Before you throw this copy away, please turn to page 95. In the left-hand column on that and subsequent pages you will find word-for-word translations from one of the history books widely used in West German schools today. For purposes of comparison we give you, in the right-hand column, extracts from the history book used in all East German schools.

We charge solemnly that these extracts show that the West German schoolbook is nothing more nor less than a justification of the aggressive acts of German militarism in the past, a glorification of the nazi Wehrmacht, and an incitement to the young people of West Germany to be ready for a new aggressive war in the future.

But you do not need to take our words on trust: read the extracts on these pages. If you cannot believe them, and you live in Britain or the United States, ask your Member of Parliament or your Senator to query the British or American High Commission in Bonn, West Germany: they will be forced to confirm them.

And join in the fight to prevent the re-establishment of a Wehrmacht commanded by old nazi generals, and composed of young men brought up on history books like that quoted.

"Giving our adopted son that little cosh will help make him a good citizen"
("Voice of Peace", Yorkshire, England)

WEST GERMAN STUDENTS MUST DUEL

Representatives from all West German universities, meeting in Regensburg on June 7th, decided that from next year the fighting of the "Mensur" (duel of honour) would be a duty of all members of student fraternities.

The "Mensur" has always been part of the militaristic tradition of German student fraternities, and a scarrred face is regarded as almost essential for success in the higher ranks of the Wehrmacht, the judiciary, and various professions.

BERLINERS REMEMBERS ORADOUR

French resistance fighters, and German anti-fascists who fought in the French underground were speakers at a rally in East Berlin on June 10th in commemoration of the brutal destruction of the French town of Oradour by the nazis.

A similar meeting was planned in the French sector of West Berlin, but was banned by the French and West Berlin authorities.

USSR INTERESTED IN WEST GERMANY

The Government of the Soviet Union would welcome West German initiative in the establishment of economic and cultural relations between the two states, Soviet Prime Minister G. M. Malenkov stated on June 11th.

Prime Minister Malenkov made the statement in the course of a talk with Otto Grotewohl, Prime Minister of the German Democratic Republic.

In the course of these discussions Prime Minister Grotewohl pointed out that important circles in West Germany were in favour of the establishment of economic and cultural relations with the Soviet Union. Prime Minister Malenkov declared that the establishment of such relations would accord with the interests of both parties, and would contribute towards a settlement of the German problem, and towards peace in Europe.

In the past few weeks an important group of West German industrial interests, whose spokesman is Free Democratic parliamentarian Karl Georg Pfleiderer, has been pressing for the establishment of trade relations with the Soviet Union. The West German Government, under US pressure, has so far rejected all such proposals.

15 YEARS FOR DERTINGER

Georg Dertinger, former East German Foreign Minister, has been sentenced to 15 years imprisonment by the Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic, after he had been found guilty of espionage for the British and US secret services.

Five other members of the espionage ring led by Dertinger received sentences of between three and thirteen years.

The official report of the activities of the group stated in part:

"This group aimed at abolishing the German Democratic Republic and the successes of the worker and peasant state, and restoring the exploitation by the monopolists, landowners and fascists.

"Since 1946 the group had delivered espionage reports to the British and American secret services. Espionage concentrated particularly upon the People's Police and the Soviet Army. Dertinger himself had particularly close contacts with the American secret service agents Dillger and Asendorf, and with a British agent named Kronika."

It was also revealed that Dertinger had had talks in West Berlin with Otto Lenz, State Secretary in the West German Government until September 1953, at which precise plans for overthrowing the Government of the German Democratic Republic had been discussed.

*

Georg Dertinger was arrested in Berlin in January 1953. After his arrest the British Reuter News Agency circulated the following message:

"Berlin, Jan 16 (Reuter) — German sources in West Berlin declared that 'for some time Dertinger had been . . . supplying agents of the British Intelligence Service with internal information about East Germany and Soviet policy.

"His information had been forwarded by a West Berlin lawyer named Eberhard Plewe."

Plewe was one of Dertinger's co-accused at the trial, and was sent to prison for 13 years.

"Panzer-Meyer" to Go Free

Nazi Major General Kurt Meyer, sentenced to life imprisonment by a Canadian court for murdering Canadian war prisoners in Normandy, will be released from Werl prison in the British Zone of Germany in September. This was announced on June 9th by the semi-official West German agency DPA, quoting as its source Ernst Majonica, Christian Democratic member of the West German Parliament.

General Meyer, who commanded the SS Panzer Division "Hitler Youth", is the only nazi general war criminal still held in confinement by the British authorities.

West Germany Makes Military Lorries

The Daimler-Benz motor firm in Mannheim has begun the production of 6-ton lorries with four-wheel drive, a type which is only used for military purposes, the West German newspaper "Das Andere Deutschland" reported in its first June number.

"The lorries leave the works with the same camouflage painting as was used on nazi military vehicles; they are equipped with special headlights for black-out driving, and with a machine-gun mount" the paper stated.

"OPERATION X" LEADERS SENTENCED

The Supreme Court of the German Democratic Republic has sentenced two of the leaders of "Operation X", the American financed plan to overthrow the East German Goverment and launch civil war on June 17th 1953, to 15 years imprisonment. One other accused was sent to prison for 10 years, and a fourth received a 5 year sentence.

Dr Wolfgang Silgradt, one of the main leaders of the Putsch attempt, confessed that he had worked as member of the "Research Commission" established by the West German Government to investigate how to return to private hands the socialised industry and agriculture in East Germany; that he had helped the Commission prepare the "rising" on June 17th; and that he had supplied the American Counter Intelligence Corps with details of possible bomber targets in the German Democratic Republic.

Werner Mangelsdorf, a former nazi parachute commando volunteer who led the disturbances in a small provincial town on June 17th, confessed that he had received precise instructions on the actions he was to take. The instructions were sent from West Berlin by courier on June 16th to former nazi colonel Fiebelkorn, holder of the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross, who was leader of the nazi "underground movement" in his area.

Mangelsdorf, who fled to West Berlin when the authorities of the German Democratic Republic restored order, told the court that American-paid agents in West Berlin had assured him that a second Putsch in East Germany was planned for the late summer this year.

West Berlin "Post Box" for Spies

Two American spies who were sentenced to 25 years imprisonment by the Supreme Court in Moscow on June 13th confessed that they had been trained at an American spy school in West Germany, and that they had to send their espionage reports through a "post box" in West Berlin.

The spies, Vladimir Galai and Yuri Khramsov, entered the Soviet Union from Norway, where they had been brought in an American military plane after completing an espionage course at Rottach in the US Zone of West Germany. They were instructed to send their reports to West Berlin, addressed to Viktor Dalchau, 32 Obentraut Strasse, and Richard Hauler, 9 Motz Strasse.

WHAT THE SCHOOLBOOKS SAY

This is what future citizens learn about recent history:

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All quotations in this column are taken from the "Geschichtsbuch für Real- und Mittelschulen" (History Book for Grammar and Secondary Schools) Part V, edited by Schulrat Fritz Simonsen, published by Ernst Klett-Verlag, Stuttgart 1953.

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All quotations in this column are taken from the "Lehrbuch für den Geschichtsunterricht" (Textbook for History Teaching) published for the Ministry of Education of the German Democratic Republic by Verlag Volk und Wissen, Berlin 1952.

Outbreak of World War One (1914)

"The Schlieffen Plan could only succeed if the German army was mobilised more quickly than the Russian Army, and if fighting began immediately. The Reich was therefore forced to declare war on Russia (August 1st) ... Our enemies utilised this fact to represent us as the aggressors. (p. 78).

"A scientific investigation of who was responsible for the war has shown that no nation and no government wanted to start a general war" (p. 79).

"The imperialists of all participating countries were responsible for this war. Imperial Germany was, however, the most aggressive of the powers" (vol. 3, p. 359).

End of World War One (1918)

"The Independent Socialists and the Communists doubled their efforts (in autumn 1918) to undermine the willingness to fight, both at the front and at home. By means of strikes they endeavoured to cripple the arms industry" (p.91).

"Big political mass strikes began in Germany as early as January 1918: at the end of January one million workers were out on strike. The workers demanded immediate ending of the war without annexation of foreign territory ... In the course of the strike in Berlin a workers' council was formed" (vol. 4, p. 105).

Frontier Revisions (1919–1921)

"In the loss of territory which immediately followed, France received Alsace-Lorraine, Poland received almost all West Prussia ... large parts of the Upper Silesian industrial districts went to Poland ... Germany thereby lost important industrial centres and agricultural centres of overproduction. In the future it would be even more difficult for the German people to support themselves" (s. 94—95).

"The peace terms did not destroy German imperialism, but they delivered a hard blow to the German monopolists. They had to abandon for the time being their plan to conquer the world" (p. 147).

Hitler Comes to Power (1933)

"General Schleicher became Chancellor, but he could not bring order into political life ... 'One must have this picture of the state of affairs in Germany clearly in mind in order to understand the attitude towards the new man who took over power (Hitler, ed.), the man who had so bravely opposed the reds, and who had offered to restore order in the interior and to restore the Reich to might and power externally' — From Francois-Poncet's Memoirs." (p. 115).

(François-Poncet is today French High Commissioner in West Germany, ed.)

"The monopolists supported Hitler with grants running into many millions. In January 1933 Papen arranged a talk between Hitler and a group of heavy industrialists and bankers, in which final plans were drawn up for the nazis to take over ... At the last moment, on January 30th 1933 the Communist Party called for a general strike against Hitler with the words: "A bloody regime of fascist terror is being erected in Germany! Do not allow the mortal enemies of the German people to succeed in their criminal plans!" (p. 207—208).

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Hitler's "Successes" (1933—1939)

"The abolition of unemployment was particularly difficult, and the fact that Hitler was successful in this consolidated his position with the German people very considerably... By the end of 1933 unemployment had sunk to 4 million, and later, when rearmament was in full swing and the Western Wall was being built, Germany even had to bring workers in from outside... More than half a million workers were recruited to work on the Western Wall. They were well paid and their families were well looked after but their freedom to choose their place of work was strictly limited... Agriculture in Germany was made into a paying proposition once again..., and the officials of the Reichsnaehrstand (Nazi Food Office, ed.) saw to it that sowing was properly controlled, and that harvests were increased" p. 118, 120).

"All the laws of the Hitler state served the imperialists and heightened the enslavement of the workers. The rights which the workers had won in decades of struggle were removed. The nazis introduced the wage freeze... They abolished the eight hour day... The Fascists forced young people into the Labour Service, as a camouflaged preparation for war. Trade unions were banned, and nine-hour and ten-hour working days were introduced in the arms industries... Arms monopolists made huge profits. The gross profits of the Krupp undertaking rose from 6.6 million marks in 1933 to 22.7 million in 1939" (p. 227—229).

Nazi concentration camps (1933—1939)

"Hitler wanted to do away with the Communist Party of Germany: the fire in the Reichstag (February 1933, ed.) gave him the opportunity. The persons guilty were described as Communists, and Hitler made mass arrests. The first concentration camps were erected: most of the inmates were Communists" (p. 116).

"Hitler prosecuted with great severity all persons who opposed National Socialism for political, religious or humane reasons. The Gestapo brought many of these brave people into the dreaded concentration camps where a large part of the prisoners died as a result of the hard conditions." (p. 119)

"Members of the SA fired the Reichstag, and Goering thereupon ordered his police and SA commandos to arrest all members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and thousands of members of other antifascist organisations. The Communist and Social Democratic press was prohibited" (p. 221).

"The nazis erected great concentration camps in which hundreds of thousands of opponents of nazism were tortured and murdered. Between 1933 and 1939 350,000 Germans were sentenced to one million years of jail, and 14,000 antifacists were murdered by the nazis." (p. 225)

Hitler's Racial Policy

"One of the great mistakes of National Socialism was the misuse of the racial idea... In 1938 a Jew shot a German diplomat in Paris: the leadership of the Nazi Party took this as the excuse for an unworthy persecution of the Jews. Acting on Goebbel's orders, misled National Socialists fired synagogues, destroyed Jewish shops and mistreated many Jews. During the war almost the whole of European Jewry was exterminated in liquidation camps" (p. 119).

(The West German schoolbook devotes a total of 13 lines to Hitler's racialism, and deals exclusively with the antisemitic aspect.)

"In order to prepare for the enslavement of other peoples, the nazis used the weapon of racial hatred. The German people were told that they were supermen, appointed to rule over other peoples. The racial hatred was directed in the main against the Jews and the Slav peoples. The hate propaganda against the Jews, also known as anti-semitism, is an old weapon of the reactionaries. The fascist terror against the Jewish people began with racialist propaganda, and ended with the murder of many millions of Jews in the extermination camps" (p. 232—233).

(The East German schoolbook devotes about four pages (160 lines) to Hitler's racial policy of extermination and extermination camps. Full details are given of fascist crimes in occupied territory and of the liquidation of many millions of Jews, Poles, Russians, Germans und other opponents of nazism.)

The Campaign against Poland (1939)

"Poland had not understood how to make the German minority contented with their lot: the Germans living in Poland and in the purely German city of Danzig had continually had to complain to the League of Nations about Polish excesses. Until this date (1939) London had always shown understanding towards the rightful German wish for the return of the 'Polish Corridor' but after the

"When it became obvious that Poland would not comply with Hitler's demands, the nazi press and radio began a wild campaign against the Polish state and the Polish people. They spread horror propaganda stories about the persecution and murder of Germans in Poland. Hitler declared that he would never abandon his demands: the German imperialists who laid down the line of Hitler's

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creation of the Protectorate (Nazi puppet state in Czechoslovakia, ed.) Britain's attitude towards Germany had become so hostile that Poland could dare to refuse Hitler's demands" (p. 126).

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policy wanted the war which they had been preparing for years" (p. 253).

Hitler's Attack on Norway (1940)

"In order to ensure his supplies of Swedish ore, Hitler wished to take over the Norwegian port of Narvik: on April 9th 1940 he occupied Denmark and Norway. At the same time a British fleet was on its way with the same intention. Neither of the opponents worried about international law. After heavy fighting and the loss of many ships Germany remained victor. She had won not only the export harbour but also important bases for U-boat warfare" (p. 129).

"On April 9th 1940 German panzer divisions invaded Denmark and occupied it. On the same day Hitler attacked Norway. The Norwegian people put up a bitter resistance to the fascist aggressors. It was not easy for the Hitlerite troops to subdue the Norwegians who were fighting for the liberty of their homeland. Norway was only occupied after weeks of heavy fighting, and even then the resistance of the Norwegian patriots was not completely broken" (p. 258).

Nazi Campaign against the West (1940)

"The German Wehrmacht understood magnificently how to use its superiority in tanks and air force. On May 14th, Holland capitulated. Always supported by the planes, the tank divisions smashed through by Sedan and reached the mouth of the Somme ... Marshal Petain, the new Premier of France, realised the uselessness of further resistance, and on June 22nd (1940) an armistice was concluded. The French negotiator stated that the conditions imposed were 'Hard but they contain nothing dishonourable' " (p. 129—130).

(The West German schoolbook makes no mention of such nazi crimes as the air attack on Rotterdam, except in the form of an exultant quotation from "Die Wehrmacht", nazi propaganda paper.)

"The campaign in the west opened on May 10th 1940 with the aggression of the nazi Wehrmacht against Holland and Belgium. One of Hitler's greatest crimes was his attack on the city of Rotterdam; it was completely flattened by the nazi Luftwaffe, and more than 30 000 peaceful people were killed ... The German-French armistice signed on June 22nd 1940 imposed severe conditions on France; the German Wehrmacht occupied the larger part of France. A government amenable to nazism was established" (p. 258—259).

War on the Eastern Front (1941—1945)

"The length of the lines of communication made the war in Russia very difficult. In addition there was the activity of the partisans, who according to Russian statistics, have the lives of 300,000 Germans on their consciences" (p. 133).

"Behind the enemy lines in the territory occupied by the fascists, partisan detachments were established, fully supported by the population. They waged a planned guerrilla war against the German imperialist conquerors ... The Wehrmacht, SS and SD behaved even more inhumanly in the east than in west Europe ... Everything was allowed: torture, starvation, hanging, shooting, gassing, burning and burying alive" (p. 262, 267).

The "Blitz"

"The Luftwaffe could take the credit for a considerable share in the victories of the Wehrmacht ... During the campaign in the west (1940) British planes repeatedly attacked Berlin and other cities. Hitler therefore ordered reprisal attacks against Britain" (p. 135).

"To prepare for the invasion planned, the nazi Luftwaffe began to make terrorist attacks on British cities. Hitler boasted: 'If the British air force drops 3000 or 4000 tons of bombs, then we shall drop in one night 300 000 or 400 000 tons. We shall wipe out their cities.' German air attacks caused serious destruction in Bristol, Liverpool, London and other cities, and smashed Coventry" (p. 259).

Nazi Submarine Warfare

"When Germany could subject Britain neither by a landing nor by bombardment, she set her last hope upon U-boat warfare. The brave crews tried to compensate by their self-sacrifice for their lack in numbers and fighting strength" (p. 134).

(No equivalent passage).

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War Criminals

"In Nuremberg the victors, with the help of the Russians, staged trials of leading men of the National Socialist Party, the state and the Wehrmacht. Many death sentences were passed against, amongst others, Goering and Ribbentrop. The states which had been occupied by Germany during the war also staged such trials against Germans. The German people have a critical attitude towards these trials, since they are convinced that many of the sentences were unjust, owing to the fact that the prosecutors and judges were still under the influence of hate propaganda, that the prosecution witnesses were very unreliable, that the accused were tortured to get confessions, and that obstacles were put in the way of the defence. It is regarded as particularly unfair that the same crimes on the Allied side were not punished. The process of denazification also caused much bad feeling" (p. 144).

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War Criminals

"The trial of the main war criminals was held in Nuremberg from November 20th 1945 to October 1st 1946. Never in human history had such terrible crimes been tried before a court. Never had criminal acts had such serious and wide-reaching results as in the case of these accused."

"Predatory German imperialism had tried to conquer the world ... The nazi fascists had prepared the Second World War and had fought the war with indescribable brutality ... More than 8 million persons — men, women and children — had been murdered in the German concentration camps. Huge areas had been completely devastated, and these criminals had brought hunger, poverty and misery to uncounted numbers. Twelve of the main war criminals were sentenced to death by hanging" (p. 330—331).

HISTORY?

On the preceding three pages we present documentary evidence of the way in which World War Three is being prepared in the minds of the schoolchildren of West Germany.

The West German history textbook quoted, one of the most widely used in West German schools, cannot be described as a completely nazi history book. Hitler is mildly condemned, a few lines are devoted to the lauding of various "clear seeing men in the Wehrmacht, the church, trade unions and diplomacy" (p. 138) who attempted to overthrow Hitler in 1944.

But the extracts given above, and those given in GERMAN REPORT of May 28th, a copy of which will be sent to anyone interested, show quite clearly that the hundreds of thousands of boys and girls who have to learn history out of this book in West Germany are being given a thorough grounding in militarism and chauvinistic nationalism.

This book, and the whole line of teaching in West German schools, makes utter nonsense of paragraph 7 of the political principles of the Potsdam Agreement, which was signed in 1945 by President Truman, Prime Minister Attlee, and Generalissimo Stalin. This paragraph stated:

"German education shall be so controlled as completely to eliminate nazi and militarist doctrines and to make possible the successful development of democratic ideas."

The extracts given above are shocking enough, but they cannot give the full flavour of the original with its smooth suave acceptance and propagation of the theory of alleged superiority and moral ascendancy of the German "race".

Here are two further quotations from this dangerous book which help to illustrate this point.

"Germany expanded East Prussia to the south (in 1939, ed.) ... the former province of Posen was extended to include Lodz ... From the incorporated provinces the Poles were resettled in the eastern regions ... Returning Germans from the Baltic area took over the land which had become free" (p. 128).

That is all that is said about the way in which the nazis drove the Polish farmers from their fields. But now read the following:

"The hardest and most unbearable fate met the Germans in the eastern territories ... Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary prepared an inhuman fate for these unhappy expellees. They were forced to leave their homes with no more than a bundle under their arm" (p. 143).

In the whole account of World War Two not a single mention is made of the nazi crimes in occupied Europe, such as the destruction of the Warsaw ghetto, Lidice and Oradour.

For comparison, we have given in a parallel column extracts from the history book used by the 14-year-olds in all schools in East Germany. Here the position is quite different: this book gives the boys and girls of the German Democratic Republic a very full survey of the crimes committed by the nazis. The reader of the book identifies himself with the victims and opponents of fascism and German militarism, and not with the nazis and the aggressive militarists, as the young reader of the West German book is almost bound to do. The resistance movement in nazi-occupied Europe, and the fight waged against Hitler inside Germany by brave Socialists, Communists and others also receives very full treatment. Which do you like better?

The Editor

Correction

We regret that an error was allowed to creep into the article "What the Schoolbooks Say" printed on page 81 of our issue of May 28th.

The extract from the West German schoolbook under the heading "Hitler Invades Poland" should read as follows:

"Upon the outbreak of war, the Poles vented their hate against the Germans in a frightful outbreak of murder ... A Swedish journalist reported at that time from Bromberg: 'There was a terrible Bartholomew's Night in Bromberg before German troops occupied the town'..." (page 128)

We apologise for the error, which does not, however, change in any way the trend of the article.

MUNICH
— Cold War Centre

A total of forty-seven different emigrant organisations and "governments in exile" have their headquarters today in Munich, in the American Zone of West Germany. Munich has become a very important American base in the cold war, perhaps the most important in the whole of Europe.

The concentration of emigrant organisations here has its origins in the period immediately following the second world war. The International Refugee Organisation, which had the task of looking after the deportees, refugees and emigrants, was able to complete its work in the British and French Zones of West Germany by 1948, but in the American Zone its work was dragged out as long as possible.

The reason was simple: the work of the IRO was being taken over quietly by the American Secret Service, which put all its efforts into maintaining intact the various political and national groups which had been formed amongst the emigrants, and training them for military espionage and sabotage.

The reason for choosing Munich as a centre was the fact that the city is very favourably situated geographically for a role in the cold war, with a long frontier with Czechoslovakia, difficult to control, in the vicinity.

The 47 organisations which have established themselves with American help in the Munich area include "exile governments" or "national committees" of Ukrainians, Cossacks, Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, Rumanians, and various Russian groups, including monarchists and supporters of quisling-general Vlassov, who fought for the nazis.

The various national groups are by no means united — there are at least four mutually exclusive groups claiming to represent Czechoslovakia, but they all have one thing in common — financial support from the pockets of the United States tax payers.

Two powerful radio stations have been placed at the disposal of these American-hired groups: "Radio Free Europe" which since 1951 has been beaming incendiary programmes to the People's Democracies of Eastern Europe, and "Radio Liberation" which concentrates its programmes on the Soviet Union. (Incidentally Radio Free Europe is known in emigrant circles in West Germany as "Radio Free Money" because it pays its employees and collaborators so well, ed.)

U. S. Admiral Alan Kirk is the man who holds the strings which control all these various organisations run with American money.

From the very beginning the Americans have made sure that their quislings live in the best of style, and they are quartered in villas mainly in the exclusive suburbs of Schwabing, Nymphenburg and Bogenhausen. A Russian orthodox bishop has been installed in a villa in Bogenhausen, and provided with an American car with an American Occupation Forces number plate.

U. S. Admiral Alan Kirk, paymaster and controller of the 47 espionage and sabotage groups established in Munich, West Germany. He claims to be representative of an "independent group of American businessmen" so interested in "European Freedom" that they freely contribute tens of millions of dollars yearly for subversive work.

The various rival groups of emigrants occupy themselves largely with plans as to how they will liquidate each other after "X-day", on which they expect American forces to launch a war and "roll back the curtain" in order to install them in office. But sometimes they find that the liquidations are too urgent to wait until then. In recent times there have been at least six political murders in the Schleissheim camp, where various groups of emigrants are accomodated; one of those murdered was a former Cossack general.

The war in the dark, carried out by these eastern emigrant organisations in Munich, and the network which they are forming throughout the whole of West Germany, and beyond its borders, remains a closed book to most ordinary citizens. But it is high time for us to protest. Citizens' Committees must insist that our city be cleansed of these 47 nests of spies.

(Condensed from "Deutsche Woche", Independent Munich weekly, No. 18, 1954)

One of the studios of "Radio Free Europe" in Munich, West Germany. The U. S. Government claims this war-hate radio station is an entirely independent undertaking, but the guard visible in the centre of the picture wears black-dyed U. S. Army uniform, a white U. S. Army helmet-liner, and is armed with a standard U. S. Army 45 automatic pistol. No data is available on the police dog.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Regular readers of GERMAN REPORT will remember the story we printed in the May 14th issue under the title "Poor Little Spy", about the pretty dark haired West Berlin girl of 17 who had been driven by her lover to carry out military espionage in the German Democratic Republic.

The girl, Edelgard Schulze, and her fourteen year old brother Wolfgang, had been sent into the German Democratic Republic to pick up scraps of military information: and inevitably the teen-age spies were soon detected and taken into custody. Edelgard, who was in an advanced stage of pregnancy when arrested, was delivered of a healthy boy.

Pathetic Spies

The State Security authorities of the German Democratic Republic gave the pathetic pair of spies a very thorough talking to, and then sent them back to their home at 53 Heide Strasse, West Berlin.

But now we come to the continuation of the story. A few weeks after Edelgard had been released she was arrested again in the German Democratic Republic. This time the man who had "got her into trouble" in both senses of the term was with her. His name is Walter Breitel, and his address was 68 Tempelhofer Damm, West Berlin. He is a full time agent of the West German Military Espionage Agency, and he will now go on trial in East Germany, not only for his own acts of espionage, but also because of the disgraceful manner in which he persuaded minors to do his dirty work for him.

When I heard this story, I asked Colonel Borrman, former factory worker and anti-fascist fighter who now occupies an important position in the East German Security Service, what action would be taken about young Edelgard.

"We have decided to send her back to West Berlin to her baby" he told me. "She was completely under the influence of Breitel, and now that he has been put out of circulation for a long period we hope she can go straight. But I am afraid we shall not be able to be so lenient if we catch her a third time."

Jumpers

Did you know that US officers in West Germany are training German soldiers, who have been forced into uniform, as parachute troops? I must admit that this was news to me until a few days ago, when I had a talk with Peter Rank, a young man from Bavaria.

Peter Rank, who comes from a village 30 miles from Munich, learned the trade of a motor mechanic. But jobs as motor mechanic are hard to find in West Germany today, so he had to sign on at the labour exchange and draw his unemployment pay.

One day the official at the Labour Exchange told him to go down to the local barracks, since there were vacancies in the US Labour Service. "What happens if I don't go" asked Peter. "Then we mark you down as 'not genuinely seeking work' and you lose your relief money" the official replied.

Reluctantly young Peter, a fresh-faced happy lad not yet twenty years old, went down to the barracks. He signed an agreement to serve for 3 years and was issued with a blue-dyed US uniform, a rifle, and other equipment, then spent some weeks learning to drill and doing guard duties on US stores and other installations. "We got a bit worried" he told me, "because members of our company were continually being assigned to 'go to France for special duties'. None of them ever came back, and none of them ever wrote, either. I don't know if it is right, but we guessed they were being sent to Indo-China as members of the French Foreign Legion.

"Then the whole of my company were sent to Bad Hoelz, where we got curious 'special physical training' which consisted in jumping off wooden towers four yards high, turning summersaults, and things like that.

Phoney

"Then finally the US officer in charge told us that we were going to parachute-jump training. When we asked what we, as a labour company, were supposed to do with parachutes, he told us that we would have this training so that in the case of great natural catastrophes, like floods, we could be quickly parachuted onto the scene of operations. "It sounded pretty phoney to us, but there was nothing we could do, so we got full parachute training, including trial jumps from planes flying at 2000 feet. We made those jumps at Kaiserslautern.

"I got fed up, and didn't want to get sent to Indo-China to die for the Americans, so in the middle of May I just nipped across the frontier into Czechoslovakia. The Czechs were very nice to me, and sent me here to the German Democratic Republic. Now I've got a good job in my trade — no trouble about that — and I've got a chance to learn to be a master mechanic. Suits me."

Capitalist Christ?

A certain Mr Hy Gardner writes a regular column in the "New Herald Tribune" called "Coast to Coast". Most of his material is tittle-tattle about show people, but every now and then Mr Gardner throws in little bits of "inside information from behind the Iron Curtain". Here in its entirety is such an item, from the June 9th number of the "New York Herald Tribune", Paris edition:

"The German Communist party is preparing publication of a new and revised Bible. Theme of the Red Bible will be that Jesus was poor, had no money, no property. Goal of the distorted version — to convert religious peasants to the cause of Communism. (Aside to Casey — please file this in the How-Low-Can-You-Get Dept.!)"

We shall file Mr Gardner in our own "How-High-Can-You-Get Department", but we can't help wondering what sort of a Bible Mr Gardner uses.

Western Freedom

The commander of the US Air Force 7221st Supply Squadron, stationed in Wiesbaden, West Germany, has issued the following order to German workers in the depot under his command:

"All persons wishing to use toilets or washrooms during working hours must in future obtain passes. This order does not apply to foremen. Outside working hours the toilets may be used without passes."

Editoral Note

For technical reasons this issue of GERMAN REPORT had to go to press a few days earlier than usual, and therefore contains no late news.

The next number, to be published on July 9th, will be a special issue devoted to the come-back of IG Farben, the great West German arms firm. Orders for extra copies of this special issue, crammed with facts and figures, should be sent in immediately.

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